

## BLADE ASSEMBLY

### Background and Summary of the Invention

[0001] This invention is concerned with a blade assembly for a precision hand tool useful for stripping the insulation material from an insulated wire which blade assembly has a lower movable portion and an upper fixed portion. The invention is particularly concerned with the wire insulation supports of such a blade assembly.

[0002] An object of this invention is the supports of a blade assembly for stripping insulation from an insulated wire which supports more securely hold the insulated wire during the insulation cutting and removal sequence of the operation of the hand tool.

[0003] Another object of this invention is the supports for an insulated wire in which each of the support components formed in the lower movable portion of the blade assembly has a greater wire receiving depth than the matching support component of the upper fixed portion of the blade assembly.

[0004] Other objects of this invention will be found in the following specification, claims and drawings.

### Brief Description of the Drawings

[0005] The invention is illustrated more or less diagrammatically in the following drawings wherein:

[0006] Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a blade assembly of this invention;

- [0007] Fig. 2 is an exploded view of the blade assembly of Fig. 1;
- [0008] Fig. 3 is a partial, enlarged, plan view of the blade assembly of Fig. 1 showing one set of the wire insulation supports in their moved together insulation supporting positions with the cutting blades omitted for clarity of illustration;
- [0009] Fig. 4 is a partial, enlarged, plan view of the blade assembly of Fig. 1 showing the wire insulation cutting blades in their moved together insulation cutting positions with the insulation supporting members omitted for clarity of illustration; and
- [0010] Fig. 5 is a partial cross-sectional view taken along line 5-5 of Fig. 3 and showing the blade assembly in its insulation supporting and cutting positions.

#### Description of the Preferred Embodiment

- [0011] Figs. 1-5 of the drawings show a laminated blade assembly 11 of the type which is used for stripping insulation 13 from conductor wires 15. Hand tools of this general type which use a laminated blade assembly similar to blade assembly 11 are shown in U.S. Patent Nos. 2,523,936 and 2,889,728, which are owned by the same assignee as the assignee of this specification. Said patents are incorporated by reference in this specification for all purposes and specifically to show the environment in which the laminated blade assembly of this invention is used and to show the operation of said hand tools to cut the insulation 13 and remove a cut sleeve of insulation from a conductor wire 15.
- [0012] As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, the blade assembly includes a fixed or stationary blade holder assembly 23 and a movable blade holder assembly 25 with a foot 27 formed integrally with the movable blade holder assembly. The foot 27 connects to a link which is connected to a handle of an insulation removing tool as shown in U.S. Patent Nos. 2,523,936

and 2,889,728 which patents are incorporated by reference in this application for all purposes and specifically to show the operation of the hand tools to cut the insulation and remove a cut sleeve of insulation from a conductor wire.

**[0013]** A fixed or stationary cutter blade 31 fits into a slotted pocket 33 formed in the fixed blade holder assembly 23 as shown most clearly in Fig. 1 of the drawing. An incline surface 35 formed on the fixed cutter blade creates a beveled cutting edge. Semicircular notches 41, 43, 45 and 47, shown in Fig. 2, are formed in the inclined surface 35 of the cutter blade and as is conventional, each of these notches is of a different diameter varying from the largest 41, to the smallest 47, with each adapted to cut the insulation of an insulated wire 17 of a selected size.

**[0014]** The slotted pocket 33 divides the fixed blade holder 23 into insulation support plates 53. A support edge 55 is located on the end of each support plate on opposite sides of the blade 31. A series of insulation supporting notches 61, 63, 65 and 67 are formed in the support edge 55 of each support plate 53 with the notches varying in size from the largest notch 61 to the smallest notch 67. As can be seen most clearly in Figs. 1 and 2, these notches align with complementary notches 41, 43, 45 and 47 in the fixed cutter blade 31. These notches are somewhat U-shaped in diameter having straight walls 69 leading from an arcuate portion 71 at the bottom of each notch. This construction forms a notch which encircles more than one half of the insulation of the wire seated in its notch to better hold the wire in position during cutting and removal of the insulation.

**[0015]** A movable cutting blade 81 fits in a slotted pocket 83 formed in the movable blade holder 25 as shown most clearly in Fig. 2 of the drawings. An inclined surface 85 on the movable blade forms a beveled cutting edge. A series of semi-circular notches 91, 93, 95 and 97

are formed in the inclined surface 85 of the movable blade. These circular notches vary in size from the largest 91 to the smallest 97 and correspond in size to be complementary to the notches 41, 43, 45 and 47 in the fixed cutter blade 31.

**[0016]** The slotted pocket 83 divides the movable blade holder 25 into insulation support plates 105, each having a support edge 107 located on a side of the movable blade 81. A series of notches 111, 113, 115 and 117 are formed in the support edge 107 of each support plate 105 with each notch having an arc of less than 180 degrees and aligning with a complimentary notch 61, 63, 65 and 67 in the support plate 53 of the fixed blade holder 23.

**[0017]** Fig. 3 of the drawings shows a portion of the fixed blade holder 23 and the movable blade holder 25 supporting an insulated wire 17 located in the largest holder formed by notches 61 and 111. It should be noted that the notch 61 has straight walls 69 on opposite sides of its bottom arcuate portion 71 to encircle more than one half of the circumference of the insulated wire 17. The upper support notch 111 is arcuate but with an arc of less than 180 degrees and, in effect, fits inside the notch 61 to engage the upper circumference of the insulated wire. This construction provides a deeper socket on the lower portion of the insulated wire providing greater support during cutting of the insulation. It should be noted that the area encircled by the upper support notch 111 ends well above the center line 121 of the insulated wire 17.

**[0018]** Fig. 4 of the drawings complements Fig. 3 in showing a fixed blade 31 and movable blade 81 in their cutting positions when the holders 23 and 25 are in the positions shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings. It should be noted that the notches 41 and 91 of the blades 31 and 81 respectively are of the same size and their blades come together at the center line 121 of

the insulated wire 17 being offset below the plane where the notches 61 and 111 of the insulation holders come together.

[0019] Fig. 5 of the drawings shows the actions of the blade holders 23, 25 and cutting blades 31, 81 coming together to cut the insulation 113 of the insulated wire 17 as depicted in Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawings. It is clearly seen that the notches 61 and 111 formed in the insulation support plates 53, 105 come together above the center line 121 of the wire with lower support notch 61 providing greater support for the lower portion of the insulation 113 during the cutting of the insulation.